

I believe the wide-band digital modes, and even the variable bandwidth digital modes are merely symptoms of a larger problem.

The number of commenter's who are associated with federal emergency services, regional, and state governments is very alarming, and should be to the FCC as well.

William Barrett, KW1B said it best, that the Amateur Radio Service is chaotic, and we want the rules to be enabling, and not restrictive. We don't want to throw out the baby with the bath water.

The bath water in this case, is spectrum encroachment. If a few stations are using wide bandwidth, it is a hobby. If hundreds of stations who are setting up an emergency service or ship to shore mail and message systems, then this is no longer a hobby, but a public utility.

I think the solution is not to limit bandwidth, or even limit variable bandwidth modems. We might even say that the bandwidth can even be infinite if it fits between two other stations. The solution to this petition should be to limit the construction of public utilities within the ARS.

I believe we are at the crossroads where Amateur Radio and government emergency services have collided head-on. The number of Amateurs who are setting up emergency stations, and exercising them daily within the ARS are taking spectrum away from the public who just want to communicate. These are hobby operators, such as young children and retired elders. Working age Amateurs, who can't wait for the weekend to talk to someone different or exchange keyboard data with other worldwide Amateurs.

The solution, I feel, is to still allow local emergency services via Amateur Radio, but when these services become regional or national then we should move this activity to federal government spectrum.

I believe the answer to this Petition, is for the FCC to identify spectrum in multiple HF bands to be reallocated to the Department of Homeland Security. This spectrum may come from both the Amateur Radio Service and the Department of Defense Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) in which to support state, regional, and national emergency services, and ship to shore message and mail services.

With this spectrum allocation, we can move public services out of the ARS to federal emergency management (FEMA) and the Department of Homeland Security.

I propose the following change (insert the word local) to Part 97.1(a):

(a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing [local] emergency communications.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Steve Sampson, K5OKC